

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Research and Analysis Manager
MANAGED BY:	Principal Economist
GRADE:	12

BACKGROUND

The West of England Combined Authority is seeking to appoint a Senior Research and Analysis Manager to join the Analysis team.

This is an exciting time to join the West of England Combined Authority. In the last year nearly three quarters of a billion pounds of new investment has been secured for the region. New plans are in place to deliver on Mayoral priorities to improve transport, skills and housing for our residents, take decisive action to tackle the climate emergency, and to support communities facing the cost-of-living crisis. There is a relentless focus on delivery to put the West of England on the map for regional, national and global success.

Led by the regional Metro Mayor, the West of England Combined Authority brings together three local councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and works with communities, other public services, and industry to deliver for the region.

Come and help shape the future of the West of England, a place so many people are proud to call home.

THE ROLE

Reporting to the Principal Economist, the senior research and analysis manager will lead the development of evidence to inform the Combined Authority's policy and strategic direction.

Managing a small team of analysts, you will ensure that regional projects are based on rigorous evidence. You will plan and manage our research work programme, working with delivery teams to identify future evidence needs. With a strong background in shaping and conducting research and an excellent understanding of economic development, you will work with the team to deliver high-quality informative evidence. Through this work, you will help ensure that we design effective policies that target the right groups, and maximise the impact of our investments to achieve the Metro Mayor's priorities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Research and Analysis Manager will be responsible for embedding robust evidence throughout the Combined Authority's work. You will be responsible for managing a programme of research and analysis to support the full range of our responsibilities, from business support and skills, to environment, transport, and the interaction of our priorities across places. You will work with internal and external partners to ensure that evidence on regional conditions and what works is tightly integrated into policy development.

You will lead the delivery of research and analysis on our priorities by:

- working with partners and stakeholders to identify future evidence needs, with both an overview of the strategic position and for specific themes;
- designing and managing research work programmes to meet these requirements, overseeing and supporting the growing team of analysts to deliver high-quality results;
- building a sophisticated understanding of the region's economic, social and environmental outcomes using a wide range of sources, from ONS and national data to social research and stakeholder engagement;
- leading the communication of evidence, ensuring that research provides clear insights to influence policy, providing clear conclusions even where uncertainty prevails; and
- building our analytical capacity across the organisation, strengthening quality assurance, enabling training and building good practice.

With a strong understanding of how regional economies work, you will have extensive experience of using evidence to shape policy and drive change. You will lead our research and analysis programme, and will ensure that research is communicated and available widely within and outside the Combined Authority. This includes assessing regional conditions to identify priorities and target policy action effectively, and ensuring we understand the potential impact of proposals. You will manage and develop our regular reporting channels, including dashboards, briefings, and annual reports, to ensure consistency and effective impact.

As the Combined Authority matures and increases our delivery, it is more important than ever that our policies and projects are based on robust evidence. With the confidence and experience to influence change, you will drive the use of evidence at key stages of policy development by teams across the organisation. And you will ensure that the Analysis team effectively guides the Combined Authority's priorities and delivery in line with our strategic objectives.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level with a strong analytical and/or economics component, or with equivalent experience
- An excellent understanding of how regional economies work and role of the public sector in driving change
- A strong grasp of the key sources of evidence on economic, social and environmental conditions across the region

Experience

- Demonstrated ability to lead an extensive programme of research, identifying future priorities and creating opportunities to deliver against objectives
- Extensive experience of designing and delivering high-quality research and analysis in a policy-facing environment
- An influential communicator, with the ability clearly to convey insights from evidence in a way that drives decision-making and the shape of priorities and projects

Skills and Competencies

- A significant track record of working effectively with partners and stakeholders to influence change throughout an organisation
- Excellent research and analytical skills, using a wide range of data sources and quantitative and qualitative research
- The ability to lead and support a team of analysts to deliver high-quality research in line with strategic objectives

DESIRABLE

- Knowledge of the West of England regional economy and the institutions that support economic development
- Experience of using economic principles to estimate project impacts, including as part of the HM Treasury Green Book process

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

Alongside a competitive salary, we offer an excellent benefits package including:

- 26 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- Generous Employer-Contribution Pension Scheme through the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Discounted monthly bus tickets
- Hybrid working to split your week between the office and home to help you achieve the best work/life balance and career goals.

We have recently moved into a new bright, airy, modern office space, with all latest technology, under a 10-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads Train Station. We offer flexible and hybrid working options too if you would rather work from home, or another suitable location.

As an equal opportunities employer, we invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

WE PAY THE LIVING WAGE

We're proud to have been accredited as a Living Wage Employer

Living Wage accreditation means that everyone working at The West of England and Combined Authority receives a minimum hourly wage of £15.17 - higher than the government minimum for over 23s, currently £11.44 per hour



It also means that anyone who provides services to, or has contracts with us, must pay the Living Wage, setting the bar for good employer practices in the region. This includes those who provide services to The West of England and Combined Authority, such as cleaning and facilities management contracts, as well as those who have contracts with us - such as IT providers.

WE ARE A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

We're proud to have been accredited as a founding Member of the West of England Good Employment Charter.

The [Good Employment Charter](#) is a voluntary membership and accreditation scheme aimed to create an active network of employers within the West of England that are committed to supporting the basis of 'good work'. The Good Employment Charter is defined by seven key characteristics of good employment: recruitment, secure work, Real Living Wage, developing people, health & wellbeing, flexible work and engagement & voice.

